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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG PRESENTS:
KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WHO IS MONK--
--AND HOW IS HE CONNECTED TO KNUX'S PAST?!
DIRECT EDITION

KNUCKLES

BOOK THIRTY

KING OF THE HILL

PART ONE OF THREE

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BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!
ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

One of the hardest facts of life to deal with is that there is always someone bigger, tougher, braver and smarter than you are. We all experience the pain of this particular learning process.

Even a Guardian of the Floating Island has to face up to the challenge, whether it's the bully from his past, or someone new with a desire to measure himself against what he considers a worthy adversary...

Knuckles The Echidna (ISSN:1523-2263), No. 30, Nov., 1999. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $1.79 in the U.S.; $1.99 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. , $21.48 for 12 issues; $23.88 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Knuckles The Echidna and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of SEGA.

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AKKKK!

NOW THAT WE'VE MET ONE OF THE MAJOR PLAYERS OF OUR TALE, LET US NOW TURN OUR ATTENTION TO YET ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL ABOUT TO STAKE HIS CLAIM TO FAME.

HERE, ATOP MOUNT KOBIYUNJARO, LOCATED IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE OF MOBIUS, WE FIND AN OBVIOUSLY DETERMINED INDIVIDUAL--A GORILLA WITH AN ATTITUDE, YOU MIGHT SAY--

--AND WOE BE TO ANYONE WHO GETS IN HIS WAY!

BAD TO THE BONE

CHAPTER ONE

THUS, AS THE FLOATING ISLAND SOARS OVERHEAD, CONTINUING ALONG ITS TRAJECTORY OVER THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET, OUR DETERMINED FRIEND CLINGS ONTO HIS LIFELINE, IGNORING THE STRAIN OF GRAVITY, THE CHILL IN THE HIGH-ALTITUDE AIR AND THE SHORTNESS OF BREATH, THE LONE FIGURE STRUGGLES IN HIS CLIMB TOWARDS THE UNDERBELLY OF THE AIRBORNE LANDMASS, NEVER PAUSING EVEN FOR A MOMENT IN HIS SINGULAR EFFORTS TO REACH HIS DESIRED GOAL...

FINALLY!

AFTER ALL THIS TIME--

--I'M HOME AGAIN!

TOP OF THE WORLD, MA!!!

THE MONK IS BACK!!!

ONLY THIS TIME--

--AIN'T NO FREAKIN' ECHIDNA GONNA GET THE BEST OF ME!!!

THAT MEANS YOU, KNUCKLES!!! YOU HEAR ME?!!

"ESPECIALLY YOU!!!"

THIS IS ONE AMAZING BOOK MY DAD GAVE ME!

" HARD TO BELIEVE OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO THE ECHIDNA WAS ONCE A RACE OF SPACE EXPLORERS, LOOKING TO UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF FAR-OFF WORLDS LIKE SATURN AND EUROPA.

" NOT ONLY THAT, BUT OUR TECHNOLOGY WAS EVEN MORE ADVANCED THAN IT IS NOW!

" WHAT'S REALLY WEIRD ARE THEIR NAMES! WHOEVER HEARD OF AN ECHIDNA NAMED DAVE?

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MONOLITH, THOUGH--

SQWAALK! SQWAAK!

WHA--!

KNUCKLES! KNUCKLES!

CATWEAZLE?!!

WHAT'S THE RUSH?!!

IT'S SNOWPIGEON! SHE'S--SHE'S--

CHILL OUT, CATWEAZLE!

TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND THEN SAY WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND!

--AND HE *USED* IT ON SNOWPIGEON!

SHE'S-- SHE'S--I CAN'T EVEN *SAY* IT!

I GET THE PICTURE.

THERE'S SOME *WHACKO* ON THE LOOSE, *KNUCKLES*--

--AND HE'S GOT HIS *WEAPON*--

JUST GIVE ME THE *DETAILS*--

--WHAT DOES THIS *NUTCASE* LOOK LIKE AND *WHERE* DO I FIND HIM?

HE'S NOT A *NATIVE*, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN!

I LAST SAW HIM AT THE *NORTH* END!

THAT TELLS ME A WHOLE BUNCH!

STAY HERE WHILE I GO FIND OUR *GUN NUT*!

BE CAREFUL, KNUCKLES!

BAD TO THE BONE

CHAPTER TWO

WITHIN MOMENTS WHILE GLIDING OVER THE TREETOPS OF THE FOREST...

KRAAASH!

SMAAA-AASH!

YEE-OOOW!!!

WHUUUMP!

IT FIGURES!

I GO LOOKING FOR SOMEONE--

--AND THEY FIND ME INSTEAD--

MISS ME?

WHO--?

MONK!

"TALK ABOUT *UNHAPPY* MEMORIES.

"I USED TO BE QUITE THE *RUNT*, KEEPING TO MYSELF--

HEEEEY!!!

"--EXCEPT FOR *ONE* JERK WHO HAD IT IN FOR ME!

GIVE ME *BACK* MY YO-YO, MONK!

YOU *WANT* IT, *KNUCKLES*?

TRY AND *TAKE* IT FROM ME!

THAT TEARS IT, BUB!

YOU'VE PUSHED THE *WRONG* ECHIDNA FOR THE *LAST* TIME!

OH, YEAH?

LET'S SEE YOU HANDLE *THIS*!

I AIN'T LETTIN' GO OF YOU UNTIL I HEAR YOU *SCREAM* "*UNCLE*!"

UGH!

I--I--

I-UNCLE!

HAH!

I'M THE KING OF THE HILL!

OR SHOULD I SAY THE FLOATING ISLAND?

OF ALL THE BOZOS I HAVE TO ENCOUNTER, IT JUST HAD TO BE HIM!

WAITAMINUTE!

DIDN'T CATWEAZLE SAY SOME FRUIT LOOP WAS USING A WEAPON?

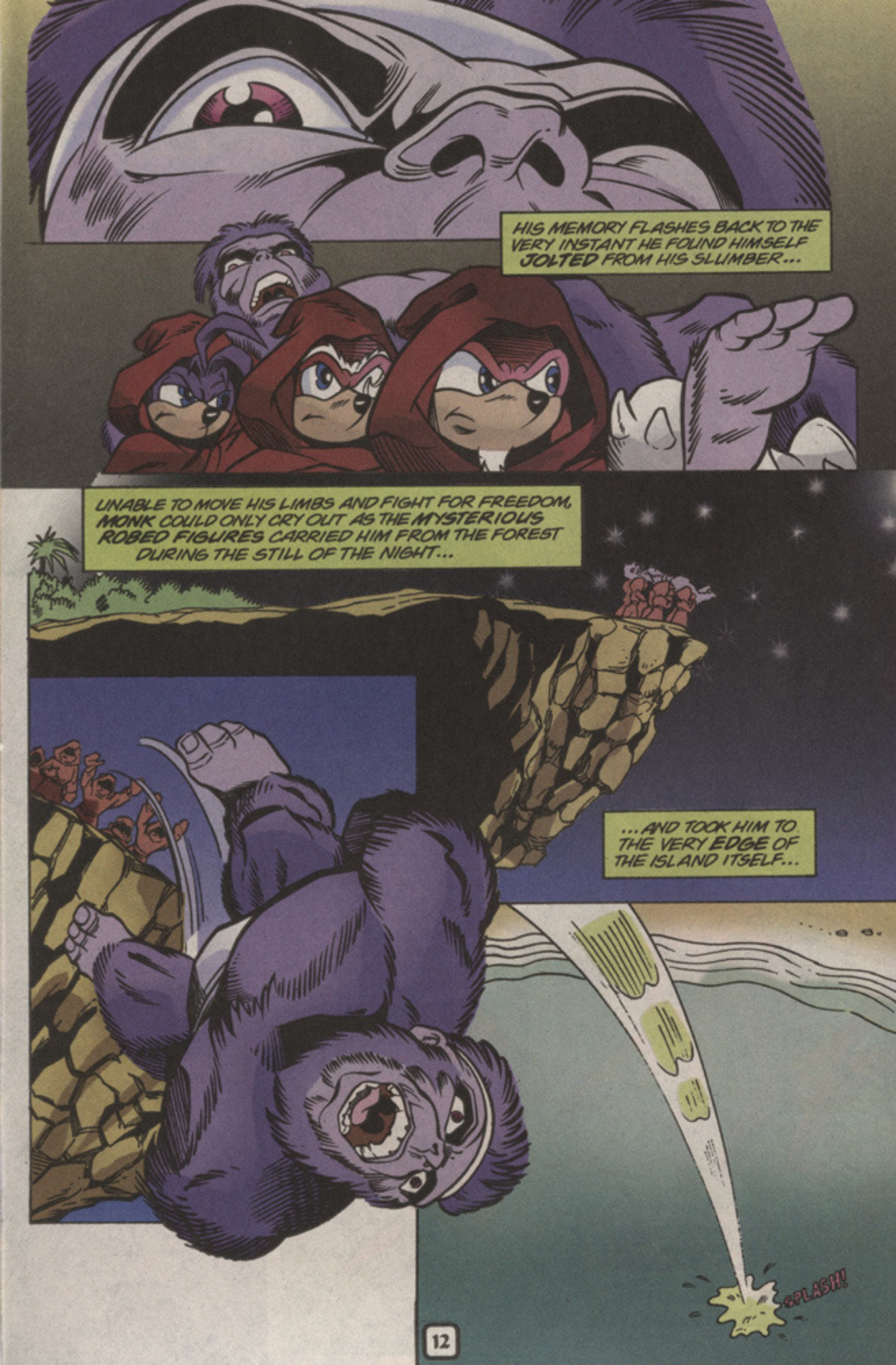
YOU'RE JUST THE RODENT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

SHALL I GET UP, OR DO YOU PREFER ME IN THE GROVELLING POSITION?

AND IF THAT IS THE CASE, I MAY BE IN BIGGER TROUBLE THAN I THOUGHT!

LIKE YOU HAVE A CHOICE!

HIS EYES LOCKED ON THE ECHIDNA BEFORE HIM, MONK HIMSELF RECALLS TERRIFYING IMAGES OF DAYS GONE BY...


HIS MEMORY FLASHES BACK TO THE VERY INSTANT HE FOUND HIMSELF JOLTED FROM HIS SLUMBER...
UNABLE TO MOVE HIS LIMBS AND FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, MONK COULD ONLY CRY OUT AS THE MYSTERIOUS ROBED FIGURES CARRIED HIM FROM THE FOREST DURING THE STILL OF THE NIGHT...
...AND TOOK HIM TO THE VERY EDGE OF THE ISLAND ITSELF...
SPLASH!

STRUGGLING MIGHTILY AGAINST THE CURRENT, MONK WAS FINALLY ABLE TO FREE HIMSELF FROM HIS BONDS...

...EVENTUALLY SWIMMING TO SHORE WHERE HE VOWED THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD RETURN!

SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY, BUD--

--LET BYGONES BE BYGONES?

WHAAAAAM!

YOU'LL NEVER WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE THAT WAY, MAN!

YEAH?

THE CO-STARS TAKE THE LEAD!

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WHO SAYS A LEFT JAWBREAKER CAN'T MAKE A POINT?

YOU HAVE TO LAND ONE FIRST, BOZO--

--LIKE SO!

BAM

MY @#$!&* NOSE!!!

YOU BUSTED UP MY FREAKIN' NOSE!!!

I DIDN'T HIT YOU THAT HARD!

HOW ABOUT WE NOW TALK INSTEAD OF BUSTING HEADS?

YOU WANT TO TALK?

AFTER I FIRST WRING YOUR NECK!

WUMPABUMPA!
WUMPABUMPA!

SAY YOUR PRAYERS--

--IF YA KNOW ANY!

I'M NOT TEN YEARS OLD ANY-MORE, BUB!

KRAK

HOLD IT!

HEAR THAT?

HEAR WHAT?

I DON'T HEAR NOTHING!

YOU'RE JUST STALLING YOUR OWN FUNERAL!

IF YOU DON'T GET OFF OF ME--

"--MINE WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE TAKING PLACE!"

THE ACTION IS ONLY GETTING STARTED...

TO BE CONTINUED!

ESPIO THE CHAMELEON

CHAPTER ONE

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ECHIDNAOPOLIS...

WHOA!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING *EVERYWHERE* FOR YOU GUYS!

I FIGURED IF I COULDN'T FIND *KNUCKLES*, THEN AT LEAST YOU'D KNOW *WHERE* HE IS!

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, JULIE-SU--

--BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SIGN OF HIM THE LAST FEW DAYS!

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP *SEARCHING* THEN!

SAY! WHO'S YOUR *NEW* FRIEND HERE?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'VE *NEVER* MET RAY!

JULIE-SU, MEET *RAY THE SQUIRREL*! MIGHTY RECENTLY SAVED HIM * AND BROUGHT HIM BACK HERE JUST YESTERDAY.

RAY-- JULIE-SU!

H-H-HELLO!

*SEE KNUCKLES #26-28 (BACK-UP STORIES) --JFG.

Ken Penders	Colleen Doran	Andrew Pepoy	Barry Grossman
Writes	Pencils	Inks	Colors

PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

LIKEWISE!

SO, ARE YOU JUST *VISITING* OR PLANNING ON *STAYING* AWHILE?

M-M-MIGHTY'S THE *CLOSEST* THING I HAVE TO *FAMILY* THESE DAYS, SO HERE'S JUST AS G-G-GOOD A PLACE AS ANY!

ARE YOU THE *ECHIDNA GUARDIAN* OF THE ISLAND I HEARD STORIES OF?

ME?! OH, NO! I'M JUST A *FRIEND* OF HIS!

I'M JUST ABOUT TO HEAD OUT AND SEE IF I CAN *FIND* HIM!

ANYONE CARE TO TAG ALONG?

I'M GETTING RAY SETTLED IN AT THE MOMENT. I WANT HIM TO CHECK OUT ECHIDNAOPOLIS--

--BUT GIVE A *HOLLER* IF KNUCKLES DOESN'T TURN UP!

I'VE NOTHING BETTER TO DO AT THE MOMENT, JULIE-SU!

HOP *ABOARD* THEN, ESPIO--

--AND LET'S *RIDE!*

OVER AN HOUR LATER...

... EVERY NOW AND THEN, KNUCKLES JUST GOES OFF ON HIS OWN--

-- STAYING OUT OF SIGHT UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENS!

YOU'D THINK HE'D AT LEAST TELL HIS *FRIENDS* WHERE HE CAN BE FOUND!

HOLD IT, JULIE-SU!!!

EEEEEEEAAAHHH

UUGHH!

OOF!

ESPIO!!!

HAVE YOU GONE NUTS?!!

FAR FROM IT!

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, YOU'RE NOT A CHAMELEON--

--SO YOU HAVEN'T THE MEANS TO KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR!

HELLO, BARNEY!

YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT! WHAT'S GOING ON?

GET-- AWAY FROM-- HERE, SON!

GET AWAY FROM WHO?

I'VE NEVER-- SEEN ANYTHING QUITE-- LIKE IT!

ALL SHINY-- AND HARD!

RUN-- AWAY--

BARNEY!!!

WE HAVE TO GET BARNEY TO A DOCTOR, JULIE-SU!

I CAN DO IT!

LET'S SADDLE HIM UP ON MY PASHA!

I'LL TAKE HIM DIRECTLY TO THE *ECHIDNAOPOLIS MED CENTER*!

JUST BE *CAREFUL*, JULIE-SU!

NO PROBLEMO! YOU JUST TAKE CARE YOURSELF!

I'LL BE *FINE*!

I WISH I COULD'VE SAID *MORE*--

--BUT MY KIND *RARELY* INTERACTS WITH *OUTSIDERS*!

I GET ENOUGH *GRIEF* AS IT IS JUST *HANGING* WITH THE GUYS!

ALL RIGHT, GUYS! YOU CAN *COME OUT*!

THE COAST IS *CLEAR*!

WHY DID YOU BRING THAT *FEMALE ECHIDNA* WITH YOU, ESPIO?

YOUR *TASTE* IN FRIENDS LEAVE A LOT TO BE DESIRED!

ACTUALLY, I HADN'T *PLANNED* TO DROP IN, BUT SINCE I'M HERE--

--PERHAPS SOMEONE CAN *EXPLAIN* WHAT HAPPENED TO *BARNEY*, LIZA!

MAYBE--

--BUT YOU MIGHT NOT *LIKE* WHAT YOU HEAR!

I DON'T LIKE IT ALREADY.

BARNEY NEVER HURT ANYONE OR ANYTHING IN HIS LIFE!

THEN COME, ESPIO--

--FOR THERE IS SOMEONE WHO WISHES VERY MUCH TO SEE YOU!

AS IT SO HAPPENS--

--YOU *SAVED* US THE EFFORT OF HAVING TO *FIND* YOU!

NO!

VALDEZ ?!!

WHO-ELSE-WOULD-I-WANT-TO-JOIN-ME--

--THAN-MY-BEST-FRIEND,-ESPIO?

TO BE CONTINUED...

FISTFUL OF LETTERS

ESPIO? I KNOW YOU'RE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...
SHOW YOURSELF, YOU CAMOUFLAGED CHAMELEON FROM THE CHAOTIX!
I DEMAND THAT YOU APPEAR TO ME!
I THINK JUSTIN'S BEEN WORKING TOO HARD!
HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE, LADIES...

OFF PANEL **by Gallagher, Manak & Amash**

THIS JUST IN!

Our latest strip guest-starring Espio, also features our receptionist, Debbie Meninger (sitting down) and proofreader, Marisa Noce. Just thought you'd want to know.

As briefly mentioned last month, all those mysterious "Coming Soon" half-page ads you've been seeing (you know, the one with Sonic's eyes and smile highlighted in the shadows) are for an upcoming storyline printing in November. It is so huge that it's taking four issues of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, two issues of KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA and one 40-page SONIC SUPER SPECIAL to tell it all. That, my friends, is the official game adaptation to 'SONIC ADVENTURE!' It is a new action/adventure game setting loose our world famous blue blur in an all-new full 3-D thrill ride!

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More on SONIC ADVENTURE next month...

Catch you on the flip side!

J.F. GABRIE
Editor / Art Director

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Re: KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #26-

Dear Knuckles.

The latest issues of your comic have been "da bomb!" My friend and I read every issue that comes out! Spaz and Penders should get the nobel prize for their covers. especially since they connected like a huge poster for practically every three issues from the first issue to #25. Thanks. guys.

Tecuma Sherman
& Eugenia Chapman
Abeco. Bahamas

Thanks for noticing. Every multi-part story had a multi-part cover to grace it. You can put together the following covers: #1-3, #4-6, #7-9, #10-12, #13-15, #17-18, #19-21, #22-24 and #26-28. Cover issues #16 & #25 are single illustrations. Go back to your collection and check it out.

Dear Julie-Su.

Julie! Julie! Julie! Julie! Julie!! What s with you? I thought you loved Rad Red! What gives??! Sure. he doesn't look like he gives a fig now. but be real patient with him! I think he truly loves you an I reckon you know that already!

Julie-Su. I can honestly say I share your feelings about boys and the need to travel another road. You female echidnas are lucky to have a side that recognizes your life-partner when you meet him. I wish I had that sort of ability. All the boys I know are two-timin'. double-crossin' no-goods! Good luck in the love stakes. I hope you have better luck than I have. I also want to say that I hope I can be a friend to you. Julie-Su. and to any other girls in your place. So here s my full address:

Victoria "Julie-Su" Rodda
18 Harcus Court
Mark Darwin
Northern Territory
Australia

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on this whole dating process with us. Victoria. All right. girlfriends. you heard her. Unite with Victoria and Julie-Su's opinions about guys or forever hold your peace.

Dear Knuckles.

I like your comic book better than Sonic's. Are Espio and Valdez brothers? See you. Rad Red.

Chris Cortes
Marianna. FL

Dear Espy.

I think you should have your own mini-series. On the topic discussed by the Chaotix in KNUCKLES #26. I don't know if Vector will be able to score a date. However. if you're looking for a date. come to the Sky Sanctuary! I'm Free! -tee.hee- Keep up the good work. cutie.

Nuku Nuku Cat
Florala. AL

For your 'Espio' fix. Chris & Nuku Nuku. check out our favorite chameleon's solo story starting in this issue first and continuing in KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #31 & 32. More of the connection between Espio and Valdez will be revealed. (By the way. we'll tell 'Espy' about your interest in him. Hey. you never know...)

Dear Knuckles.

I just received Knux #26 and. personally. I think Julie-Su's right. You shouldn't have run out on her like that. You should have given her an explanation. No offense. but I'm glad she went out with someone else. You better learn to appreciate her more before someone else. like Raynor. does. I can't wait to see what happens next! A note to Vector. I think he's really in over his head with this dating business. Warning: while all of you are lost in the love game. I have a feeling that Ivo Robotnik s making a comeback. Major bad news. so look out!

Amy Kisaka
Stoney Creek. Ontario
Canada

By now you've read all three issues. so what do you think about how it turned out?

Well. that's it for this month. Thank you all for your comments. See you in thirty. And remember...

KEEP COOL!

Cover by Manny Galán and Ken Penders. Colors and separations by Darrin Moore and Heroic Age.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In two weeks: After a most successful mission in the heart of Robotropolis, Sonic and Sally make the trek back to Knothole Village. But what kind of surprises await them upon their return? Be on the lookout for "Rebel Without A Pause," the next exciting installment of the Sonic comic. It is written by Karl Bollers, FRY and Andrew Pepoy. Plus: Tales of the Great War, Part 5 by Ken Penders, Chris Allan and Jim Amash.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #77 on sale late Sept. 1999!

Next Month: Continuing the epic storyline, "King Of The Hill!" Knuckles and Monk are confronted by Hunter, an overlander who follows a life much like his namesake. Looking at them as his greatest challenge to date, he targets them for his latest hunt. Written and penciled by Ken Penders with inks by Harvo. Also: Espio The Chameleon, Part Two by Penders with art by Colleen Doran and Andrew Pepoy.

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #31 on sale early October 1999!

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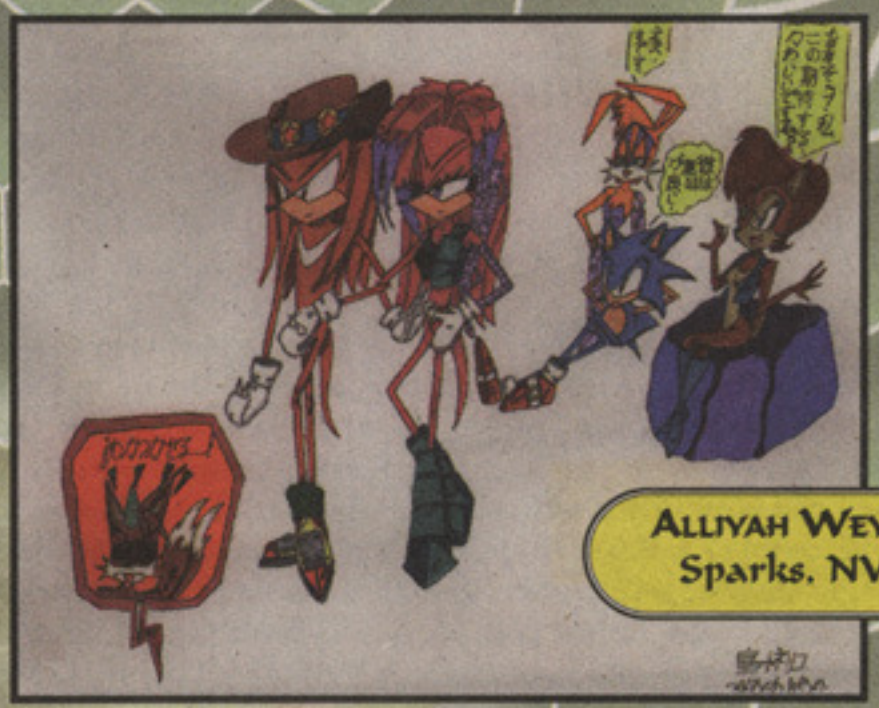
JERRY RICHMOND
Phoenix City, AL



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